

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 30

WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 28, 1952

Don't Bluff

By Walter E. Myer

YEARS ago when I was a young teacher, it was not unusual for a student to ask me a question that I couldn't answer. This was terribly embarrassing to me. I was afraid that if I said I didn't know, the students would lose confidence in me. On the other hand, if I dodged the question, guessed at the answer or tried some other bluffing device, I was likely to find myself in even greater difficulties.

After a good many painful experiences, I consulted an older teacher and received this advice: "If you don't know an answer, frankly admit it. Tell the class that you don't know, but that you will find an answer and report back the next day. Or, better still, appoint a student or a committee of students to find the needed information."

"But," I asked, "Won't I 'lose face' with my students if they see that I lack information?" My friend answered, "Not unless you fail too often. If you miss too many questions, they will decide you are not well prepared. In that case you must work harder to master your subject. But if you miss a question only now and then, you will lose nothing and the students will respect you for being honest with them."

This was good advice and it will work as well with students as with teachers. When you are unprepared, don't try bluffing. Nine times out of ten both the teacher and your fellow students will know what you are doing. They will not admire you either for your knowledge or for your honesty.

Don't be afraid to say "I don't know." Your admission of this fact indicates that you have taken the first step in the right direction. You know where your weakness is and what you should do about it.

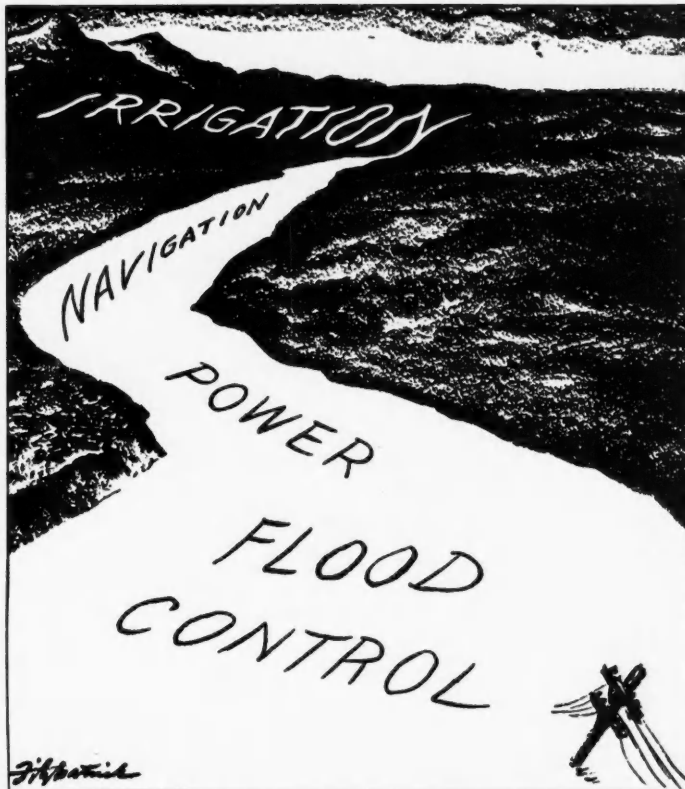
Of course, if you fail to answer too many questions, there is something wrong. You need to work harder at your subject. "I don't know" is never as good as "I do know," but it is better than bluffing—better than alibis and excuses.

The student who is honest and straightforward, who never pretends to knowledge he does not possess, will have the respect of teachers and classmates, and that is a possession greatly to be prized. Such a student is building a reputation for integrity every time he stands before the class and tells the truth. Be as well prepared in your work as it is possible to be, and when you fail, make each failure a steppingstone to success.

An alibi may be used effectively once in a while, but if called upon too often it shows signs of wear. Some students go to great pains to explain every failure. Possibly they studied the wrong lesson, or had to work during the period set aside for study. These are merely examples of countless threadbare explanations which are effective only when sparingly used. First honors go to those who ordinarily do their work well and do not need to make excuses.



Walter E. Myer



ALL ONE RIVER. Many people think one agency should direct the development of all aspects of our major rivers—irrigation, navigation, power, and flood control. Others oppose a single authority on the grounds that it is impractical and would increase federal power too greatly in the river valleys.

Rivers and Disaster

Floods on Missouri and Mississippi Bring New Demands that Our Great Waterways Be Brought Under Control

"WHAT is to be done about flood protection in our river basins?" Americans ask one another this question after each disastrous flood that the nation suffers. But, despite all the talk, and despite protective measures that have been taken in various places, many of our cities and farms are still at the mercy of the rivers.

Twice in less than a year, the Missouri and some of its tributaries have poured destruction on the communities located along their banks. Heavy rains struck the Midwest last summer, sending the Kansas, the Neosho, the Missouri, and other rivers to record or near-record heights. In recent weeks, rapidly melting snows in the Dakotas and near-by northern states have again put the rivers on the rampage. Among affected streams have been the Mississippi, the Red River of the North, and—once more—the troublesome Missouri. Flood waters have driven thousands of families from their homes and have caused tremendous damage.

Our nation has a number of other rivers which have, from time to time, risen to cause major floods. There are the Columbia and its tributaries in the Pacific Northwest; the great

Ohio, together with the streams that feed it; and eastern rivers such as the Connecticut and the Potomac—to mention only a few.

Americans have already done a great deal of flood-control work on their river systems. The amount we have spent on dams, reservoirs, and dikes runs into billions of dollars. The Army's Corps of Engineers and other major flood-control agencies in this country have spent about 1½ billion dollars since World War II in the Missouri basin alone.

Although we still suffer disastrous floods, it cannot be said that the nation's river-control expenditures have all been wasted. Reservoirs and levees have on many occasions prevented destructive overflows. Many people contend, however, that our local, state, and federal governments have done far too little for protection against the rampaging rivers. Recent flood losses seem to support that claim.

Numerous observers believe that one of our chief troubles, so far as the federal government is concerned, is the scattering of flood-control responsibility among many different agencies. In our nation's capital, it is

(Concluded on page 2)

Central Africa Looks to Future

Big Changes Are Taking Place in Underdeveloped Lands of "Dark Continent"

ON maps of the Belgian Congo issued during World War II, it was not possible to find the town of Shinkolobwe. As a matter of military secrecy, this little mining community in the southeastern Congo was dropped from all maps. At Shinkolobwe is found the world's richest uranium ore, raw material for the atomic bomb.

Once the first A-bomb was dropped at Hiroshima, the curtain of secrecy was lifted. Today Shinkolobwe is back on the map. The uranium mines are thriving, and it is common knowledge that the United States is buying most of the mines' product.

Uranium is but one vital resource of a little-known area which is now assuming great importance to the United States and the other western nations. This area is Central Africa. In the east are the British-controlled lands of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, and Northern and Southern Rhodesia. In the heart of the area lies the rich Belgian Congo. In the west are the southern part of French Equatorial Africa and the Portuguese territory of Angola.

The entire area is slightly larger than the United States. Its population, however, is probably less than 50 million—only about one third that of our country. About 99 per cent of the people are African natives, though the 350,000 or so Europeans who live in Central Africa hold the vital jobs and make up the ruling group.

A traveler would find Central Africa a colorful and varied region. The Congo, the area's greatest river, winds its muddy way through forests and steaming jungles where apes, gorillas, (Continued on page 6)



SIGNS OF PROGRESS. Central Africans are slowly being trained along technical lines.

Floods Focus Attention on River Control

(Concluded from page 1)

practically impossible to find any office that can give a reasonably complete picture of what the United States is doing to protect its people against untamed rivers. Flood-control work is scattered through various sections of the government, including agencies in the Departments of Defense, Interior, and Agriculture.

While this month's floods were still pouring through the Missouri and Mississippi valleys, it was reported that President Truman intended to propose a reorganization of our country's flood-control efforts. Possibly his proposals will have been made public by the time this paper reaches its readers.

Early reports indicated that the President wants to give the Interior Department increased responsibility for the job of taming our rivers. This plan would meet very strong opposition from the Army's Corps of Engineers. For a long time, flood-control has been one of the principal duties

Regardless of who, in the future, gets the job of directing flood-control work, one of the major subjects of discussion and dispute will be the Pick-Sloan Plan, under way in the Missouri River Valley since the middle 1940's.

This program is named for Lt. General Lewis Pick, chief of the Army Engineers, and W. G. Sloan, a former official in the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Both these agencies are at work on the enterprise.

The plan calls for the building of more than 100 big dams on the mighty Missouri and its tributaries. Although designed for only one of our major river basins, it is nearly always mentioned when the question of flood control—as a national problem—arises. That is because it is a very extensive program, and also because the pro-and-con arguments about it can be applied to flood-control proposals for other valleys.

Advocates of the Pick-Sloan Plan

but recurring floods cost even more."

There is much argument as to what is really the best way of preventing floods. Many people feel that the Pick-Sloan Plan, as well as other programs which emphasize elaborate dams and dikes, does not use the right approach. These critics say:

"In the Pick-Sloan program, great emphasis is placed upon construction of big dams, reservoirs, and levees. Although some of these are necessary, it would be better if we paid more attention to the places where floods really *start*—on mountainsides and in farmers' fields. We should cultivate our land in such a way that a maximum amount of the rain which falls would be held in the soil, rather than being allowed to pour through gullies and flood the rivers. Proper care of fields and hillsides will serve two purposes. It will save the soil and will do much to prevent destructive floods.

"Dams and reservoirs have many useful purposes, but they also waste

so heavily overgrown that it took men with machetes a full day to cut their way through a mile of it.

"This year's floods [1951] were far greater than ever before. The ground was like a filled sponge. It couldn't hold any more water. It couldn't if every acre had been prepared with the latest soil-conservation plans.

"I believe in soil conservation," Pick concluded. "I'll bet I have made more speeches for soil conservation in the Missouri Valley than anyone else. But it isn't protection against floods."

Many people, meanwhile, propose to settle the river-control problem by using federal valley-development agencies patterned after the 19-year-old Tennessee Valley Authority. These organizations would have charge of harnessing our river systems for flood control, navigation, electric power production, and irrigation; and they would also promote land-conservation measures. The valleys of the Missouri and the Columbia are among those for which such agencies have been requested.

People who favor the establishment of over-all "authorities" argue:

"It is best to put a single agency in charge of all the development programs that affect a river system. In too many of our valleys we are using a piecemeal approach. There is bound to be confusion and waste when several different agencies are at work in the same area on flood control, power production, irrigation, and so on.

No Remedy

"Even if President Truman succeeds in pushing through a reorganization plan for centralizing much of our river-control work in the Interior Department, the situation will not be remedied. Each of our large river basins needs a special agency—similar to the TVA—which would concentrate on the development problems of that particular basin, and would take an over-all view of those problems,

"The Tennessee Valley, now that TVA is in operation, is no longer plagued with serious floods. Similar valley projects could conquer the flood menace in other parts of this nation."

Large numbers of Americans, on the other hand, vigorously *oppose* the establishment of new valley authorities such as the TVA. They believe that such organizations would permit a greater extension of federal influence than is good for the nation. Furthermore, most of these individuals are especially worried about the production and sale of electric power by federal agencies of any kind, since they feel that such activities lead us into socialism. Opponents of the valley-authority idea recognize the need for federal flood-control projects of some sort, but they insist that other U. S. government activities along our rivers should be held to a minimum.

Critics are not convinced that the TVA's success in dealing with flood dangers would be repeated by other valley-authority projects. They say that the Missouri, for instance, is a much larger river than the Tennessee, and that it would pose far more difficult problems.

The whole question of how to make the best use of rivers is as old as civilization itself, and recent floods in this country have made it a prominent national issue.



THE RIVER SYSTEMS in the central United States. The Missouri and Mississippi, with some of their tributaries, have

been the scene of recent floods. A number of the rivers shown on this map have not been affected.

of the Engineers, and they do not want to yield it to Interior.

The Corps and its supporters claim that the Engineers are better qualified than anyone else to handle the task of flood prevention. Also, it is argued, river-control work furnishes good training for Corps officers, and helps them to develop technical skills which they would need in time of war.

But many people argue that flood control, since it is essentially a civilian job, should be handled by the Interior Department rather than by an Army organization. They also charge that the flood-control work of the Corps has been poorly planned.

If President Truman seeks to strip away the Engineers' river-control activities, he will have a big fight on his hands. Either house of Congress can, by a vote of a majority of its members, kill the President's reorganization proposals. In the past, the lawmakers have been very friendly toward the Engineers, so they may not let the Corps' flood duties be taken away.

say that it would prevent floods in this way: After heavy rains or during the melting of heavy snows, the water would collect in big reservoirs behind the dams—instead of swelling the rivers downstream and causing destructive floods.

Congress has gone slowly on appropriating money for the Pick-Sloan dams. Only about twenty of these are now completed or under construction. People who urge rapid completion of the program point to the recent midwestern floods as examples of what delay can cost. These advocates believe that if all the Pick-Sloan projects had been carried out, the destruction that has occurred during the past year would have been largely avoided.

Completion of the program, though, will require a great deal of money. Some authorities claim that it might take as much as 20 billion dollars. Others maintain that this estimate is far too high. Supporters of the Pick-Sloan Plan argue in this way: "Flood control admittedly costs a lot of money."

good land. When a reservoir is constructed, thousands of fertile acres are likely to be converted into lake bottoms. Furthermore, if proper soil-saving measures are not being taken in the surrounding area, the reservoir will soon begin to fill up with mud and will eventually become useless."

General Pick disagrees with these arguments. Although he supports soil-conservation measures such as the planting of trees and grass on steep slopes, he says that large numbers of dams and reservoirs are needed too. Just after the great flood in Kansas and near-by states, last summer, he made the following comments:

"The biggest flood before this one was in 1844. That was before a plow had been laid to the Kansas prairies. That was before the trees had been cut.

"In Burma during the war, we could predict the extent of floods when we knew how heavy the rains were 100 miles away. That was in country



THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES, living in the paths of the destructive waters, have been driven from their homes by the midwestern floods. Some got away before the rivers reached them; others had to be rescued and taken to safety in boats.



BUSINESS DISTRICT of Pierre, capital city of South Dakota. Pierre, located on the Missouri River, has suffered its worst flood in more than 70 years. Large numbers of its people were forced from their homes this month.



THE SWOLLEN MISSISSIPPI roars past a dam in Minneapolis, and near St. Paul, Minnesota. The "Father of Waters," which originates among the lakes of northern Minnesota, has been one of the major rivers involved in the recent floods.



DESPITE THE "WELCOME" SIGN that could still be seen, South Sioux City, Nebraska, was getting few visitors on the day this picture was taken.



CARING FOR FLOOD REFUGEES has been a major task. Thousands, after fleeing the lowlands along the Missouri, the Mississippi, and other rivers, were taken to school buildings and similar public places for shelter.



A FAMILIAR SCENE in towns and cities along the flooding rivers. With shovels and sandbags, volunteers worked desperately to protect threatened areas. In some places the fight was won. In others, the flood broke through.

The Story of the Week

Eisenhower's Plans

General Dwight Eisenhower, who is scheduled to quit as commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in June, is hard at work winding up his many duties in Europe. A short time ago, he made a "farewell" visit to many of free Europe's capitals. Now, he plans to help allied military men iron out a few remaining trouble spots in NATO's defense set-up.

When Eisenhower returns home, he hopes to visit his boyhood home in Abilene, Kansas, where he is to dedicate a citizenship foundation bearing his family's name. Later, Ike plans to fight for the Presidency if the Republicans name him as their standard-bearer in the July convention. Until that time, the general declares, he will stay in uniform and will not actively campaign for the Presidential nomination.

When Eisenhower leaves his defense post next June, he will have spent almost 1½ years as supreme commander of the free nations' forces in Europe. During that time, NATO has made many gains which were summarized in the general's annual report a short time ago. The report includes the following statements:

A year ago, 12 Atlantic treaty nations had only some 15 partly armed troop divisions (there are about 18,000 men in each division), 1,000 planes, and no unified military command. Now, the defense partners have about 30 armed divisions, a well-organized ground, sea, and air command, and two new treaty members—Greece and Turkey. By the year's end, moreover, NATO is scheduled to have 25 active and 25 reserve troop divisions, and 4,000 good planes in readiness.

Citizenship Projects

Students in many parts of the country have been telling us about special citizenship activities held in their schools. Here, in brief, are reports of two such projects:

Members of the Sandusky, Ohio, High School hold special trial Democratic and Republican Presidential nominating conventions during election years. The students work hard for months to prepare for the big political meetings. Social studies classes write up the GOP and the Democratic



THE UNITED STATES, the largest passenger liner ever to be built in this country, is being completed at Newport News, Virginia. Built to carry 2,000 passengers and a crew of 1,000, the ship could accommodate 14,000 troops.

Party platforms, while other classes set the stage for the conventions. Every effort is put forth to make the political meetings as realistic as possible.

The American Democracy class of Macon High School, Macon, Illinois, held a special election on the 8th of this month—the day Illinois held its Presidential primaries. All the school's students were asked to register and cast ballots under the same procedure used by adult voters. The election turnout was a huge success—every single student of the school voted.

What's TV Doing to Us?

What effects does television have on our daily lives? Has the TV screen taken the place of books and magazines, the movies, attendance at sports events, and the like? A nationwide survey group recently sought the answers to these questions. Here, in brief, are some of its findings:

More newspapers and magazines are being sold, and presumably read, now than before video came into widespread use. Good movies are still a sell-out, and even the radio industry—a close competitor of TV—is growing bigger instead of smaller.

Moreover, many of the big sports events, such as baseball, football, and boxing, are taking in more money now than they did before TV appeared on the scene. In fact, last year some colleges suffered a drop in gate receipts when their games were not shown on television.

An earlier *New York Times* survey, meanwhile, found that TV did not interfere with the nation's reading habits. It, too, found that magazines and newspapers are gaining in circulation. Moreover, the *Times* group said that most public libraries reported a boost in book circulations, particularly among children, since video became popular.

Europe and Pacific

Events on two sides of the globe are helping to strengthen the free world's defenses these days.

America's Pacific security agreements with Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines are to go into effect today. Under these treaties, we promise to help defend Japan

against possible enemy attacks, as well as to cooperate with Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines on defense matters. At the same time, World War II in the Pacific area officially comes to an end as the Japanese peace treaty goes into force.

Meanwhile, Britain recently agreed to come to the assistance of the European Defense Community in case of enemy attack. The EDC, a group of nations which plan to set up a united European army within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has six members. They are Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy, Netherlands—all NATO members—and West Germany. Though England, as an Atlantic treaty member, has been a military partner of other NATO countries, she has not, until her recent pledge, been an ally of Germany.

What Voters Should Know

In these critical times, every voter has a particularly heavy responsibility to his country. During elections, for example, it is his duty to choose leaders carefully and wisely. To help the voter make decisions at the polls, the Freedom House—a national organization which fosters good citizenship and world freedom—recently issued a special booklet called "A Guide to Intelligent Citizenship in 1952." Here, in brief, are some of the chief points mentioned in the guide:

1. As a voter, do not be taken in by the rosy promises of candidates who suggest simple, but often unintelligent, solutions to difficult problems of the day.

2. Find out whether your candidates try to win elections by appealing to the prejudices of certain groups, and whether they support the interests of one part of the country at the expense of the entire nation. Such practices are dangerous to our national interests.

3. Before casting your ballot, carefully sift and study campaign speeches, party differences, qualifications of candidates, and other pertinent matters.

India's Boys Town

Not long ago, eight-year-old Munisami wandered the streets of Madras, India. He ate out of trash cans, sometimes swept floors for 21 cents a day, and spent nights sleeping on railroad platforms. Today, Munisami is one of many Indian boys who are getting a new start in life at the Madras Boys Town, started by YMCA workers in 1947.

These Boys Town members live in a neat camp, formerly used by the Army. They go to classes and learn trades which will help them in later life. At the camp there is a tailor shop where the boys learn to make clothing, a metal shop where they make tools, and other shops where the boys learn a variety of crafts. The former homeless waifs get some experience with democracy, too. They elect their own council which makes the rules under which the boys live.

Most of the money for the Madras Boys Town comes from interested leaders in India and from Americans living there. These people "adopt" a boy by paying his expenses, which run to about \$1 a week.

Another Investigation?

How much influence does Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Chinese government, now in exile at Formosa, have over our Far Eastern policies? "Too much," say Republican Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, and Democratic Senator Brien McMahon of Connecticut. It is claimed that Chiang's supporters have even used foreign aid funds to pay for their propaganda in our coun-



CAPTAIN CARLSEN, the skipper who stuck by his storm-tossed ship, the *Flying Enterprise*, until it went down in January, is shown just before he sailed on his new vessel, *Flying Enterprise II*.



THIS IS the new United States Embassy in Mexico City. Formerly our delegation there occupied four buildings. The only U. S. Embassy in the world that is larger than this one is that in England.

try. The two Senators, as well as President Truman, have asked Congress to investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, the *Reporter* magazine, in its April 15 and April 29 issues, charges the Nationalist sympathizers, known as the "China lobby," with using unfair tactics to get American financial aid and political support. The magazine traces the growth of the lobby over the years, and concludes that the pro-Chiang group has greatly influenced our Far Eastern policies.

Some lawmakers and citizens, however, contend that the supporters of Nationalist China are not guilty of any wrong-doing—that representatives of many other nations try to influence congressional acts favorable to them. Moreover, they argue, the backers of Chiang have been working for America's interests along with their own, since the Far Eastern aims of the U. S. and the Nationalists are very similar.

It remains to be seen what action, if any, the lawmakers will take on the proposed investigation of the China lobby.

Last Call on Seaway

Unless the United States acts soon, Canada will go ahead with the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway alone, Canadian officials declare.

Of course, Canada still hopes that America will help her build and operate the waterway, which will open the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes to ocean-going vessels, as well as develop new sources of water power. Nevertheless, the Canadians are now getting ready to launch the project as soon as they get the green light from the U. S. to build dams from their side of the St. Lawrence to our shores. Canada's Foreign Minister Lester Pearson recently asked America's permission to build the dams.

Meanwhile, Congress, which has discussed the issue many times before, is again debating whether or not the U. S. should cooperate with Canada on the waterway. Supporters of the plan, including President Truman, argue:

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Hotel Manager: "Do you want the porter to call you?"

Guest: "No, thanks, I awake every morning at seven."

Hotel Manager: "Well, then, do you mind calling the porter?"



"Just a minute, young lady! First of all, this is *not* your honey, and, second, I'm quite sure that the old geezer *won't* let him have the car this evening!"



THE NEW BERLIN. Modern cars and up-to-date stores are seen along the city's streets. The stark outline of an old building (upper right), however, is a reminder of World War II—and so is the presence of occupation forces.

"We should share in the ownership of the project because it will give us a vital transportation line for peaceful needs and for wartime use."

Opponents of the Seaway take this view: "The waterway would cost more than it is worth to us. Moreover, it would hurt our rail lines and some of our big port cities by taking trade away from them."

The Race Goes On

As the Republican nominating convention draws nearer, the results of numerous primary elections indicate that the chief contest for the party's Presidential nomination will be between General Dwight Eisenhower and Robert Taft. Such men as MacArthur, Warren, and Stassen will be available in case of a deadlock between Taft and Eisenhower.

The picture in the Democratic camp is quite different. Now that Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson, as well as President Truman, has refused to run

for President, the field is wide open for candidates. Some party leaders who formerly supported Truman or Stevenson are now turning to foreign aid chief W. Averell Harriman as a Presidential candidate.

At the same time, of course, Tennessee's Senator Estes Kefauver, Georgia's Senator Russell, and other leading Democrats are hoping to become the party's standard-bearers. It is anybody's guess as to whom the Democrats will choose as Presidential candidate, although Senator Kefauver has won all the primary elections before our press time.

Your Vocabulary

For each sentence below, tell which answer best explains the meaning of the italicized word. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. More than a million acres of farmland were *inundated* (in'un-dät-éd). (a) spared (b) flooded (c) ruined (d) threatened.

2. The Missouri Valley has a *perennial* (pur-én'i-ál) flood problem. (a) continual (b) serious (c) infrequent (d) significant.

3. Some say the Corps of Engineers has done *exemplary* (eg-zem'plu-ri) work controlling floods. (a) little (b) poor (c) constant (d) model.

4. Others maintain the engineers have been *inept* (in-épt'). (a) doing a good job (b) unfit (for the job) (c) held back (d) too late.

5. It is believed the Russians are *furtively* (für'tiv-li) conducting espionage in Central Africa. (a) openly (b) brazenly (c) secretly (d) continually.

6. The communists would like to see *insurrection* (in'sür-rék'shün) among the African natives. (a) leaders (b) hardship (c) peace (d) rebellion.

7. In some instances, the Europeans have *relegated* (rel'é-gät-éd) some powers to tribal chieftains. (a) assigned (b) refused (c) promised (d) sold.

Disaster comes from two Latin words: *dis*, "against," and *astrum*, "star." Even today some people believe that our lives are influenced by the stars. So they think a disaster occurs when the stars are against you.

SPORTS

FORD KONNO, a wiry little Hawaiian, is the top candidate for the U. S. Olympic swimming team. He has proved conclusively in the past month that he is one of the fastest swimmers in the world. He has been setting speed records at distances ranging from 220 yards to a mile.

In the national collegiate meet a few weeks ago, Konno was high-point man. Now a freshman at Ohio State University, he scored 18 points to help his team win the national championship. In the 1,500-meter race (about a mile), he defeated Jimmy McLane, the 1948 Olympic champion at 1,500 meters, and John Marshall, the Australian swimming star. Both McLane and Marshall are students at Yale University.

Konno turned in another top-notch performance a week later in the national amateur meet. Here he won three free-style swimming titles.

Ford is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 145 pounds, but his lack of size is no handicap. Using the American crawl stroke, he thrashes through the water like a tireless machine. One secret of his success, according to Konno's coach, is "wonderful natural rhythm." Another is constant practice. The Ohio State star spends at least two hours a day in the water.

Ford started swimming at the age of nine in Hawaii. He first competed against other swimmers in YMCA meets. Then he entered McKinley High School in Honolulu and became a member of the swimming team. Be-



FORD KONNO, a freshman at Ohio State University, has been breaking one swimming record after another

fore he graduated, he set records at several distances. In 1951 he was a member of the All-American High School swimming team.

Although he lives but a short distance from the famous beach at Waikiki, Ford seldom goes there to swim. He prefers swimming in fresh-water pools where there are no currents or waves to hamper him. He has spent hours developing the smooth, relaxed stroke that has made him a champion.

Konno is the latest of many outstanding swimmers who have come from Hawaii. One of the first to attract world attention was Duke Kahanamoku, who won gold medals for the U. S. in both the 1912 and 1920 Olympic Games. Today nearly all young people of the islands are good swimmers.



VERY FEW PARTS of Central Africa have modern schools. This one is at Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo. About one fifth of the Congo children go to school.

Central Africa Today

(Continued from page 1)

and reptiles abound. Elk, zebras, hippos, giraffes and other animals browse on the extensive grasslands known as savannahs. Only a few miles from the equator the snow-covered peaks of the Mountains of the Moon reach toward the sky.

Why is increasing attention being focused on this region? For one thing, it is a vast, overflowing storehouse of vital raw materials, many of which are in short supply in other parts of the world. These materials include numerous basic minerals upon which modern civilization depends for its industrial progress and its defenses.

Not far from Belgian Congo's uranium mines are extensive supplies of copper. So rich are the diggings that most of them are surface operations. Only recently have several shafts been sunk to the rich copper deposits below the surface. Since the big Belgian company which runs mining operations in the Congo began its activities in 1911, it has produced more than 3 million tons of copper as well as large quantities of silver, zinc, and cobalt.

Supply of Tin

Recently a great, underground "mountain" of tin was found in the Congo. Engineers directed their drills far beneath the earth's surface, but did not reach the bottom of the rich deposit. A U.S. loan is helping buy crushing and washing plants for the big new tin field.

Surveys in Tanganyika have resulted in the discovery of eight tremendous coal fields which, it is estimated, contain more than a billion tons of the precious fuel. Near one of the large coal fields are extensive iron-ore deposits of high quality. The existence of these two minerals side by side has invariably foreshadowed the rise of a great industrial country.

New discoveries are constantly being made in Central Africa. During the war a big diamond field was found in Tanganyika. A few years ago en-

gineers found extensive lead deposits. It marked the first time in 30 years that a major source of lead had been discovered anywhere in the world.

Not only is central Africa important for its mineral wealth but also for its strategic location. The entire region is under the control of European countries linked to us in the North Atlantic Pact. Should Russia launch a sudden attack into Europe and the Middle East and overrun these areas, Central Africa might well become a mighty "rear base" where the western powers could collect their strength and prepare a counterattack.

Already a number of steps have been taken to build up the military strength of the area. Many British troops that were withdrawn from India when that country became independent in 1947 are now stationed in Kenya. Near Nairobi, capital of Kenya, a strong British base for troops and supplies is under construction. Hundreds of guns, tanks, and other weapons used by the British in World War II are stored here. In Kenya, the Belgian Congo, and Rhodesia, new airfields have been built.

It is plain to see that Central Africa looms large in the plans of the western democracies. Whether it will attain the bright future that seems to be in store for it depends, however, on a number of factors.

No matter how rich in resources a region may be, it is not likely to realize its possibilities unless it has a trained, literate population, capable of doing the many types of work necessary for developing the area. The lack of such a population is one of the biggest obstacles to Central Africa's speedy development.

John Allan May, a London correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*, summed up the situation—after a visit to Central Africa—with these words: "In the 'dark continent' the night of no-civilization lasted unbroken for tens of thousands of years;

the creeping dawn has spread for only fifty. The difference shows."

It shows in many ways. There was, for example, the native who came from his jungle village to work in a tin mine in the Belgian Congo. He was given a wheelbarrow and shovel and told to fill the wheelbarrow with earth and carry it to a near-by dump. He filled the wheelbarrow, then picked it up, balanced it on his head, and carried it to the dumping place. He had never before seen a wheel, and had no idea of its use.

The difference shows in the superstitions and strange customs of the primitive tribes. For instance, any type of activity except fighting is considered beneath the dignity of the men of Kenya's Masai tribe. Bantu tribes of the Congo believe that all miseries and misfortunes are caused by evil spirits which must be neutralized by means of magic. It is hardly surprising that these people suffer excessively from sleeping sickness, malaria, and other tropical ailments.

The big problem faced by the European nations that run these lands is to help the Africans bridge the gap from prehistoric times to our modern machine civilization—in as short a time as possible. It is a staggering task, but until it is done, the region will not be able to make full use of its rich resources.

The best that can be said is that a start has been made to educate the natives and raise living standards. For many years, schools run by missionaries have been teaching a limited number of natives to read and write as well as the basic rudiments of health and sanitation. Today most governments are paying increased attention to education, but the number of schools is still appallingly few.

In the Congo, about 20 per cent of the children receive some education. Most of them are boys. Many native families think that girls should not go to school.

In Kenya, about 10 per cent of the young people are enrolled in school, and half of these are in the lowest

grade. Most children leave school within a year or two, and the number who, at the age of 16, receive final certificates—roughly equivalent to a high school diploma—averages less than 50 a year. Fifty graduates in a country of 5½ million people!

Yet, as dark as the picture may seem, the idea of education is slowly spreading. More and more of Africa's natives are beginning to see that the ability to read and write is important in earning a living and improving one's station in the modern world.

As education produces skilled workers, other problems which loom large today are likely to be met successfully. For example, there is the matter of food production and crops. Lack of modern farming knowledge keeps crop production low, and has resulted in large areas of eroded land. The spread of modern farming methods is one of the big objectives of those who are trying to lift living standards in these countries.

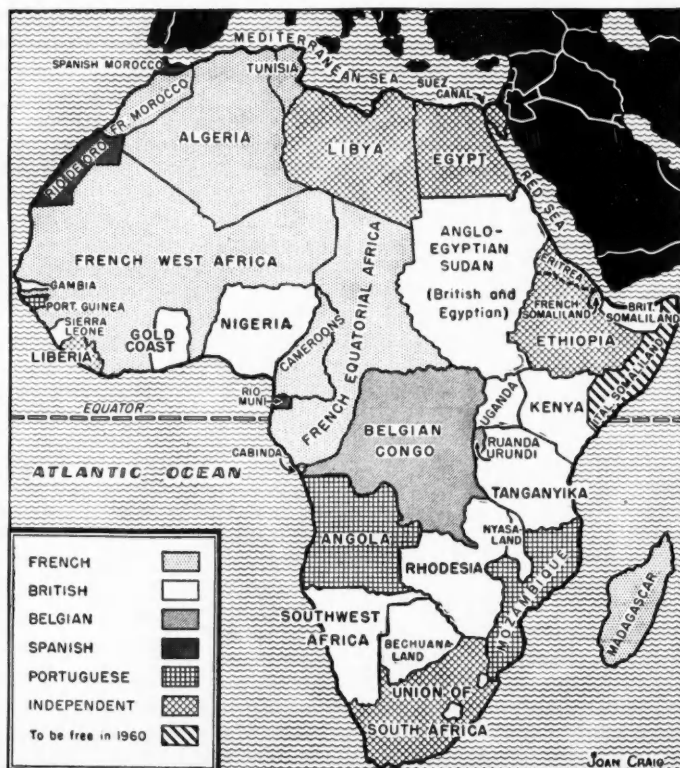
Lack of Roads

Another problem is posed by a lack of roads. In many places poverty-stricken natives barely eke out a living in an area where mineral wealth is abundant or where fertile soil could produce vast amounts of cotton, rice, and other crops. Yet there is no way to bring in the machinery needed to dig the wealth from the earth or to prepare the fields for cultivation. And even if these jobs could be done by hand, the products could not be transported to market.

Most lands in Central Africa are tackling this problem. One of the most extensive road-building programs is taking place in the Belgian Congo. There, in a score of areas, bulldozers are plowing through tangled jungles, or flattening the thick grass of the plains. Between now and 1959, Belgian authorities plan to build some 10,000 miles of new roads.

As they go about developing this huge area, the administrators from

(Concluded on page 7, column 1)



FRANCE, Belgium, Britain, and Portugal control rich countries of Central Africa

Britain, France, Belgium, and Portugal are today principally concerned with raising living standards so that there will be trained manpower to help open up the untapped resources. They cannot help but be aware, though, of a vital problem that is bound to come up in the future—that of self-rule by the African natives. What is being done to prepare for that day?

Conditions vary a great deal throughout the area. In general, the natives have practically no representation in the higher councils of government. On the lower levels of administration, they play some part. In local matters, the authority of many native chiefs and their councils is recognized.

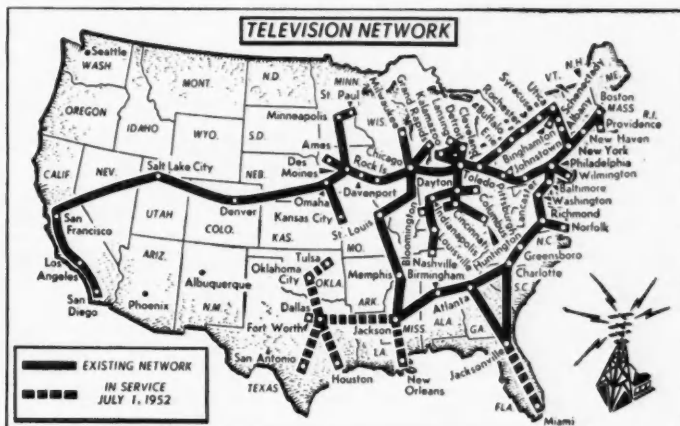
Even the most ardent friends of the African natives agree that they are not yet ready to govern themselves. Whether the European powers that run these lands are doing all they should to prepare the natives for self-rule in the future is a subject of debate. Some say that the European overseers could do much more along this line. The rulers reply that progress toward self-rule must proceed at a slow and careful pace when people are as completely foreign to modern ways of government as are the natives of Central Africa.

Example of Asia

Behind this controversy is the recent example of Asia. There the desire for self-rule has spread rapidly in the postwar years, and has resulted in widespread disorders in Indochina, Burma, and elsewhere. Moreover, the communists have tried to use this rising tide of nationalism to entrench themselves in power. Will they try the same thing in Africa?

The danger exists. Already the Russian communists have their eyes on this part of the world, and are issuing propaganda intended to turn the natives against their European overlords.

So far the campaign has made little headway. Political ideas have little meaning to the people of Central Africa in their present stage of development. As more of them become educated, though, they will become politically conscious and desirous of their independence. To what extent they are influenced by the communists will depend in large part on how fairly they are treated, both politically and economically, by their present rulers.



EIGHT NEW CITIES expect to be connected with the present transcontinental television network in time to see the political conventions this summer. Solid black lines show the existing network. Broken lines show connections that will be made with the new cities.

Progress in Science

Sometime this year, British engineers plan to hitch some plastic wings to a jet plane and let the craft take to the air. They want to find out if plastic will stand up in flight. If the wings pass the test, the British want to start making an all-plastic jet airplane.

The British have been trying to find a plastic strong enough to pass such a test for a long time. Now they think they have succeeded. The material is the kind used to make telephones and small radios, but it contains asbestos to make it even stronger. The plastic looks like hard black wood.

The man-made material can be produced in huge sheets so that cutting out wings will be something like cutting out a suit from a piece of cloth. The tough material costs less than aluminum, and in many ways it has been proved stronger than that metal.

The engineers are worried about one thing, though. They wonder if the plastic wings will be able to stand the pressure of flying at high speeds.

The United States Navy has some new clothing which will keep a fighting man warm and comfortable in sleet, snow, rain, and freezing cold. The garments consist of an inner jacket of nylon fleece, an outer jacket

of rubber covered with nylon, boots, and a waterproof hood.

The Navy recently tested the new gear in a room which resembles a huge refrigerator. The temperature in the cold room is 54 degrees below zero! The wearer first stepped into a shower until he was soaking wet. Then he went into the Navy's cold room and stayed for two minutes.

When he came out, he was covered with ice from head to foot. "Are you cold?" spectators asked him. "No," he replied, "I'm sweating!"

Northern New Zealand has a region much like our Yellowstone National Park. It has geysers, boiling hot springs, and volcanoes. For a long time, scientists have wondered if the steam from the hot springs could be put to work. New Zealand needs more electricity to run her industries.

The country now reports that engineers have succeeded in harnessing enough power from the hot lakes to operate a small generating plant. The plant furnishes electricity for a hotel.

The plan is working so well that the government will soon build a large electric plant in the area. It will be similar to plants in Italy which use natural steam to make electricity.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.

Letters From Our Readers

I greatly enjoyed your article on "Russia's Satellites." The story clearly brings out the cruel way in which the Soviets treat the people who live under their regime. I hope we can do something to help these unfortunate individuals.

C. M. MEACHAM,
Flint, Michigan.

I certainly think 18-year-olds are capable of becoming good voters. Most of them are just completing their high school courses at that age, and they are well prepared to cast ballots. I believe young people would keep their classroom interest in politics alive if given a chance to take part in political contests.

JANE BARKLEY,
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

I think Senator Russell would make a very good President. He believes in a strong foreign policy for our country, and he has a knack for getting people of both political parties to support his views. In fact, most people who hear the Senator are won over to his side by his straight-forward approach to problems.

SARAH GERWIN,
Richmond, Virginia.

No, I don't think 18-year-olds should vote. Young people just out of high school simply have not had the experience they need to make wise decisions at the polls.

ALFONSO LA FALCE,
Poughkeepsie, New York.

Governor Warren of California is the man for the White House. He has had a great deal of administrative experience as head of his state for some 10 years, and he has won the support of Democrats and Republicans alike.

WANDA WILLIAMS,
Gladewater, Texas.

There have been far too many air accidents in recent months. These mishaps are endangering the lives of many citizens who live near airports. I think it is about time we took drastic action to prevent future air crashes by strict inspection of planes and by taking other measures.

CATHY SEDGWICK,
Chappaqua, New York.

I agree that we should encourage voters to go to the polls, but I wonder if it is always wise to have disinterested citizens vote. After all, these "lazy"

Americans, if made to vote, would not always choose leaders wisely.

MONONA BERGER,
Madison, Wisconsin.

I believe that all communities should have teen-age traffic courts such as Baltimore, Maryland, has. In this way, young traffic offenders would have a chance to find out their mistakes and try to correct them. Many teen-agers break road rules because they have not learned safe driving methods. The special courts could help them become safer drivers.

WILBERT WOLLENHAUPT,
West Lawn, Pennsylvania.

Ever since I read your short article called, "I'm Just a Steering Wheel," its message has stuck in my mind. The steering wheel is at our command, and we can make it a thing of tragedy or a thing of joy. Thank you for printing an inspiring and enlightening article.

ESTHER MARTINEZ,
Clovis, New Mexico.

(Address your letters to Readers Say—, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

Care Contributors

Aid Overseas

SCHOOLS and other organizations have responded so generously in the drive for foreign-aid gifts through CARE, Inc., that we are falling behind considerably in listing them. We shall continue to name contributors, since they deserve recognition for serving humanity and furthering the cause of peace, and we hope to name them all. Gifts have been sent by:

Harmony Union Sunday School, Cushing, Okla.

Social Science Class, Arkansas City, Kans.

Newark Valley Central School, Newark Valley, N. Y.

High School, Lawrence, Nebr.

Plainfield High, Plainfield, N. J.

Garfield High, Terre Haute, Ind.

Harvard High, Harvard, Ill.

Girls' Club, Tremont Community High, Tremont, Ill.

Oil City Senior High, Oil City, Penn.

Gastonia High, Gastonia, N. C.

Student Council, Atlantic Schools, Atlantic, Iowa.

Dixie Heights High, Covington, Ky.

Washington School, Loveland, Colo.

Johnson-St. Paris Schools, St. Paris, Ohio.

Libby High, Libby, Mont.

Lindley Junior High, Greensboro, N. C.

Simpson Church School, Paterson, N. J.

Mayfield Central School, Mayfield, N. Y.

Dolgeville Central School, Dolgeville, N. Y.

Chaffey Union High, Ontario, Cal.

Temvik High, Temvik, N. D.

Rea-Hanks 4-H Club, Dawn, Mo.

Lincoln High, Tacoma, Wash.

Grafton Senior High, Grafton, W. Va.

Suitland High, Washington, D. C.

High School, Scarsdale, N. Y.

Greensburg High, Greensburg, Penn.

Nanticoke High, Nanticoke, Penn.

Dinuba High, Dinuba, Cal.

Senior High, Farmington, Minn.

Livermore Falls High, Livermore Falls, Me.

Sodality of Our Lady, Evanston, Ill.

Glyndon High, Glyndon, Minn.

St. Lucie County High, Fort Pierce, Fla.

Beaumont High, Beaumont, Tex.

Hugh Morson High, Raleigh, N. C.

Laupahoehoe High, Laupahoehoe, Hawaii.

St. Agnes High, St. Paul, Minn.

Alma High, Alma, Mich.

Waukesha High, Waukesha, Wis.

Grants Pass Schools, Grants Pass, Ore.

United Township High, East Moline, Ill.

Forrest City High, Forrest City, Ark.

Balboa High, Balboa, Canal Zone.

Gays Mills High, Gays Mills, Wis.

Bay County High, Panama City, Fla.

Van Brunt Horicon High, Horicon, Wis.

Onsted Community Schools, Onsted, Mich.

Newport Harbor Union High, Newport Beach, Cal.

Winfield High, Winfield, Kans.

Lanphier High, Springfield, Ill.

Annapolis High, Annapolis, Md.

Chambersburg High, Chambersburg, Penn.

Bangor High, Bangor, Me.

Oakridge Girls' League, Westfir, Ore.

Horicon Hi-Y, Horicon, Wis.

Elizabeth School, Charlotte, N. C.

Moses Lake High, Moses Lake, Wash.

St. Joseph High, Omaha, Nebr.

Wonewoc High, Wonewoc, Wis.

Gallaher School, Huntington, W. Va.

Western High, Silver City, N. M.

Oregon City Senior High, Oregon City, Ore.

Bismarck Senior High, Bismarck, N. D.

Eveleth Senior High, Eveleth, Minn.

Tigard School, Tigard, Ore.

Clearwater High, Clearwater, Kans.

Charlottesville High, Charlottesville, Ind.

Ely High, Ely, Minn.

East High, Des Moines, Iowa.

East Grand Rapids High, Grand Rapids, Mich.

A \$10 donation will buy four handtools—a pitchfork, weeding hoe, mattock, and shovel. For \$17.50, CARE can send a plow. Contributions may be sent to CARE, Inc., Dupont Circle Building, Washington 6, D. C.

Career for Tomorrow

In Recreational Work

RECREATION is a broad vocational term that includes the supervision of a wide variety of activities for people of all ages—from high school coaching to work at a center for adults.

Hence, if you are considering a career in this field, you can choose the type of institution for which you want to work—high schools, the Y.W. and Y.M.C.A.'s, the Boy and Girl Scouts, industrial firms, churches, and city recreational departments. You can also select the particular activity in which to specialize—sports, dramatics, arts and crafts, or others.

Your duties will depend upon the activity you select and the kind of organization for which you work. Generally speaking, though, you will work directly with the people who are taking part in the program—eight-year-olds at a public playground, teen-agers on a football field, young adults at a dance center, or older people at a card party.

If you advance to the point where you have charge of a large recreational project, you will not do so much of the actual work with people. Instead, you will plan the over-all activities for a school, a church, a town, or an industrial firm; supervise the buying of equipment; and perhaps help plan such facilities as a gymnasium, a community center, or a group of tennis courts. You may also supervise a public relations program for your organization.

To succeed in any branch of recreational work, you should have a real interest in people, a good disposition, steady nerves, initiative, imagination, and enthusiasm. To succeed as a director, you should have executive ability

—that quality of mind which enables you to see a problem as a whole, the drive necessary to carry a project through, and a personality that makes other people accept your leadership.

A college degree is an asset in recreational work, but it is not absolutely necessary. If you should go to college you could major in physical education, recreation, or in some other field—music, art, or one of the more strictly academic subjects. Either in college or through courses taken in the summer, you should become skilled in your field of specialization—tennis, dramatics, crafts, and so on—and you should learn the best teaching techniques.

Physical education as it is taught in colleges and universities is a branch of recreational work. It includes coaching athletic teams, teaching different sports to regular classes, and teaching such subjects as modern dance, hygiene, and first aid. A college degree is usually required for this work.

While you are in high school, you can get experience in the recreational field by doing volunteer work on playgrounds, with Boy or Girl Scout troops, at your church, or with other organizations. Such work will give you valuable training.

Salaries vary in this field, and depend upon the type of work you do and the size of the community in which you are employed. Beginners may earn from \$1,800 to \$2,400 a year. Experienced persons get from \$2,500 to \$5,000 a year. A few directors of large programs in the major cities earn more than \$5,000 a year.

The advantages and disadvantages of a career in recreation depend upon



COACHING is usually one of the duties of recreational workers

your aptitude for the work. If you like to direct groups of people, and are good at one kind of recreational activity or another, you would probably enjoy the field. There is constant challenge in planning and carrying out recreational programs, and there are opportunities for advancement. If you do not like group work, though, your duties would soon become irksome.

The American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., issues the following career publications at 5¢ each: *Health Education as a Profession*, No. 1; *Physical Education, A Profession for Women*, No. 2; *Physical Education, A Profession for Men*, No. 3; *Recreation as a Profession*, No. 4.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Order your copy of the book *Careers for Tomorrow*, by Carrington Shields, now, from the Civic Education Service, Inc., 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. \$1.50 per copy, with a 10 per cent discount on orders of 5 or more.

Study Guide

Floods

1. What has caused the floods of recent weeks?
2. What has already been done to control the nation's great rivers?
3. Name some of the federal agencies that are involved in flood-control projects. What agency does President Truman want to put in charge of the work, according to reports?
4. Briefly describe the Pick-Sloan plan.
5. What arguments are made for and against the plan?
6. What are the pros and cons for establishing a valley-development agency for the entire Missouri Valley?

Discussion

1. What is your opinion of the Pick-Sloan plan?
2. Are you for or against a valley authority for the Missouri River?

Central Africa

1. What lands are included in Central Africa?
2. Why has this region been described as "a vast, teeming storehouse"?
3. What strategic importance does Central Africa have to the western nations?
4. Describe the state of public education in Central Africa today.
5. What problems exist with regard to roads and crops?
6. To what extent is communism making headway in Central Africa?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not believe that the natives of Central Africa should at this time have a bigger hand in running their governments? Explain.
2. How do you think the European rulers of these countries can most effectively prevent the spread of communist influence among the natives? Give your reasons.

Miscellaneous

1. What does General Eisenhower plan to do when he returns to this country? Briefly describe NATO's progress during Ike's 1½ years as supreme commander.
2. According to nation-wide surveys, is television taking the place of other forms of entertainment? Explain.
3. What Pacific agreements and treaties go into effect today?
4. Summarize the chief points, according to the Freedom House, for voters to remember when casting ballots.
5. Why do Senators Wayne Morse and Brien McMahon want an investigation of the "China lobby"?
6. What is the purpose of India's Boys Town?
7. Briefly describe some of the disastrous floods of past years in the United States.

References

- "Flood Control," *Business Week*, February 16, 1952. How a Nebraska region fights floods.
- "Africa Is Next," by Theodore H. White, *Harper's Magazine*, February 1952. Policy which the U.S. must pursue if Africa is to be kept allied with the western nations.
- "Africa: Strategic Prize of the Century," by George W. Herald, *United Nations World*, February 1952. A report on the struggle for the allegiance and wealth of the world's second largest continent.

Pronunciations

Angola—äng-gō'lah
 Kenya—kén'yah
 Nairobi—ni-rō'bī
 Nyasaland—ni-ās'ah-land'
 Rhodesia—rō-dē'zhah
 Tanganyika—täng-gän-yē'kah
 Uganda—yoo-gän'dah

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) flooded; 2. (a) continual; 3. (d) model; 4. (b) unfit (for the job); 5. (c) secretly; 6. (d) rebellion; 7. (a) assigned.

Historical Backgrounds - - Disastrous Floods

ALITTLE more than four centuries ago, in 1542, de Soto and his party of explorers became not only the first white men to see the Mississippi River, but also the first to see it in flood stage. We have no way of knowing how severe that early flood was, but the trip's chronicler described the river as "always muddie, down which there came continually manie trees and timber." In 1684, the Mississippi had also burst its banks when La Salle, the French explorer, first saw it.

During our more recent history, floods on the Mississippi, and on other rivers as well, have too often brought disaster. The Red Cross reports that, since its founding in 1881, it has operated 1,021 flood relief programs at a cost of 93 million dollars.

One of the nation's most spectacular floods, and one of the first in which the Red Cross assisted, was the Johnstown flood of 1889. Heavy rains caused a dam 12 miles above the Pennsylvania city to give way. The water behind the dam swept down through the valley in a mass that was more than 20 feet high. Within an hour Johnstown and seven neighboring communities had been virtually destroyed. Property damage totaled 10 million dollars and 2,000 to 3,000 people were killed.

In 1913, one of the greatest floods in the nation's history occurred in Ohio and Indiana when the Miami River and other streams flowing into

the Ohio suddenly burst from their banks. The volume of water in the Miami River was 10 times as much as it could carry. Damage was estimated at 181 million dollars and 730 people were killed.

In 1927, another disastrous flood occurred—this time along the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico. Approximately 20,000 square miles of land were inundated and 700,000 people were driven from their homes. Property damage totaled 200 million dollars and 350 lives were lost.

Even more disastrous, though, were the floods in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys in 1937. Nine hundred lives

were lost and a million people were left homeless. Property damage reached a total of 500 million dollars. Advance warnings to areas along the lower part of the Mississippi prevented the destruction from being even greater than it was.

Ten years later, in 1947, still more disastrous floods occurred in the Missouri and upper Mississippi River basins. Property damage was about a billion dollars and approximately 4 million acres (more than 6,000 square miles) were under water.

Last summer's floods in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma caused an estimated 870 million dollars' worth of damage and took 40 lives.

Even in years when no record-breaking floods occur, many rivers often overflow and cause staggering amounts of damage. In 1950, for instance, property damage from inundations totaled more than 126 million dollars. And rivers other than those of the central United States often overflow to cause serious damage. Floods frequently occur in New England, the southeastern states, and the Far West.

This year's disastrous floods are causing keen debate on the question of what should be done to reduce the possibility of destruction from "rivers on the rampage." Opinions on how the problem can best be tackled are discussed in one of the articles beginning on page one of this issue.



WRECKAGE from the devastating Johnstown flood of 1889